REMARKS

The Official Action dated November 4, 2002 and the Advisory Action dated February 13, 2003 have been carefully considered. Accordingly, the changes presented herewith, taken with the following remarks, are believed sufficient to place the present application in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

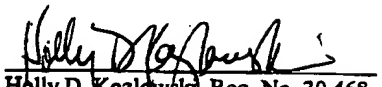
By the present Amendment, claims 1-3 are cancelled and the dependency of claims 6-8 is changed from rejected claim 1 to allowed claim 4. Claim 9 is amended to correspond with claims 8 and 4 from which it depends. A Version With Markings Showing Changes Made is attached. It is believed that these changes do not involve any introduction of new matter and do not raise any new issues subsequent to final rejection, whereby entry is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested.

The Examiner's indicated allowance of claims 4, 5, 10-13 and 15-20 is acknowledged and appreciated. As the dependency of claims 6-8 has been changed to allowed claim 4, claims 9 and 14 depend from claims 7 and 6, respectively, and claim 9 is amended to overcome the antecedent basis issue noted by the Examiner in the Advisory Action, Applicants submit that claims 6-9 and 14 are also allowable. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Finally, claims 1-3, 6-9 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. As claims 1-3 are cancelled and the dependency of claims 6-9 and 14 has been changed to allowed claim 4, it is believed that this rejection has been overcome. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

It is believed that the above represents a complete response to the Official Action, and places the present application in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and an early allowance are requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Holly D. Kozlowski, Reg. No. 30,468
Attorney for Applicants
DINSMORE & SHOHL LLP
1900 Chemed Center
255 E. Fifth Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
(513) 977-8568

VERSION WITH MARKINGS SHOWING CHANGES MADE

Claims 6-9 are amended as follows:

6. (Twice Amended) The method according to claim [1] 4, wherein an in vitro immunoassay is carried out on a fluid sample from the individual for the determination of the level of antibodies directed towards said recombinant allergens.

7. (Twice Amended) The method according to claim [1] 4, wherein antibodies of the IgE class are determined.

8. (Twice Amended) The method according to claim [1] 4, wherein an in vivo test is carried out in the individual.

9. (Third Amended) The method according to claim 8, wherein the test is a skin test involving placing said one or more ABPA-related recombinant allergens in the skin of the patient.

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